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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR THE ELABORATION OF AN
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO COMBAT
DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES
EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR
DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA
Tenth session
New York, 6-17 January 1997
Agenda item 2

PREPARATION FOR THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of Working Group I

Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative and support arrangements

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Recalling its mandate to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/234 of 23 December 1994,

Recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopt, at its first session, the following decision concerning the administrative arrangements involved in designating a Permanent Secretariat and making arrangements for its functioning.

Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative and support arrangements

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling that the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with Article 23, paragraph 3 of the Convention, shall, at its first session, designate a Permanent Secretariat and make arrangement for its functioning,

Having examined the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the administrative arrangements involved in designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning,

1. Notes with appreciation the advice of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on this matter as contained in document A/AC.241/44, as amended in paragraph 4 of document A/AC.241/55, as well as the clarifications in document A/AC.241/64 and related comments made in Working Group I of the Committee;

2. Also notes with appreciation the advice of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on this matter as contained in document A/AC.241/55/Add.2, as well as the clarifications in document A/AC.241/64 and related comments made in Working Group I of the Committee;

2 bis. Accepts the offer of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, contained in documents A/AC.241/44 and A/AC.241/55, for the United Nations to provide the administrative and support arrangements for the Convention Secretariat, and requests the Secretary-General to provide these administrative and support arrangements for the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention pursuant to Article 23 of the Convention;

2 bis bis. Further requests the Secretary-General to appoint, after consultation with the COP, through its Bureau, the Executive Secretary of the Convention, with the term and level of the latter to be decided by the COP;

2 ter. Decides that in order for the Permanent Secretariat to enjoy the administrative and financial autonomy necessary to ensure efficient servicing of the Convention and of its implementation, it should not be fully integrated into the work programme and management structure of any particular Department or programme of the United Nations;

3. Decides to review these arrangements not later than its fourth session, in consultation with the Secretary-General, with a view to making such modifications as may be considered desirable by both parties;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary to pursue the question of the allotment of overhead to defer administrative expenses as indicated in the advice of the Secretary-General and to report the results at its second session;

5. Expresses its appreciation to the departments and programmes of the United Nations, as well as agencies of the United Nations system, that have supported the Interim Secretariat of the Convention and the INCD process generally, expresses the desire that the support and cooperation given by those departments, programmes and agencies should continue and invites these entities and the Executive Secretary to collaborate in reaching understandings that specify the nature of cooperation and support which each entity would provide to the Permanent Secretariat.